

**MINUTES
ILLINOIS COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING**

**MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN CHICAGO
540 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
SALON E – 5TH FLOOR
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2014
9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John Hosteny, Chair
Phyllis Mitzen, 1st Vice Chair
J. Diane Adams-Alsberry, 2nd Vice Chair
Steve Wolf, Secretary
Betty Martz, Assistant Secretary
Jane Angelis
Anthony Frazier
Paulette Hamlin
Margaret Huyck
Talat Khan
Mubarak Mirjat
Lee Moriarty
Anna Oestreich
Eugene Verdu
Bernarda Wong
Joe Piasecki (Representing Senator Julie Morrison)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Charles Crowder
Naomi Fowler
Melvin Grimes
Robert O'Connor
Dana Rosenzweig
Senator Mattie Hunter
Senator Sam McCann
Representative Ron Sandack
Representative Dwight Kay

VISITORS:

Charlotte Kauffman, Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health
Sharon Tiknis, The Alford Group
Carol Lu, Senior Services of McHenry County
Cathy Chudz, Social Security Administration – Crystal Lake
Carmen Rinei, Hispanic Housing
Daylia Warden, Illinois CIL

DEPARTMENT ON AGING STAFF:

John K. Holton, Director
Lisa Zuurbier, Council Liaison
Sonia Bhagwakar, General Counsel
Christopher Boyster, Legislative Liaison
Lance Kovacs, Deputy Division Manager, Division of Community Relations & Outreach
Sara Han, Deputy Director's Office
Cathy Houghtby, Division of Community Relations & Outreach
Jill Pence, IT Section
Barb Halstead, Director's Office

SUMMARY

Opening:

The meeting was called to order by John Hosteny, Chairman.

The roll call was taken by Steve Wolf, Council Secretary. A quorum was present for the meeting.

Members, staff and guests at the meeting introduced themselves.

Old Business

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

A Motion was made by Eugene Verdu that the Minutes from the October 14, 2014, Illinois Council on Aging Meeting be approved.

The Motion was seconded by J. Diane Adams-Alsberry.

Motion carried.

The Chairman reminded Council Members that even if their term on the Council has expired, they are to continue serving until reappointed or notified by the Governor's Office that they will not be reappointed.

A representative of Governor-Elect Rauner's Transition Team has contacted Chairman Hosteny regarding a recommendation from the Council as to who should be appointed to serve as Director of the Illinois Department on Aging. This will be discussed before the close of today's meeting.

New Business

Director's Report:

Director Holton mentioned the passing of Comptroller, Judy Barr Topinka, and the group observed a moment of silence. Comptroller Topinka was always a friend of Aging.

The Department is in the process of transitioning from the Quinn Administration to the Rauner Administration.

Director introduced the Department's General Counsel, Sonia Bhagwakar.

Director and staff held regional meetings in DeKalb, Springfield, and Centralia with the Area Agency on Aging Board of Directors and the Directors of each Area Agency. The Area Agencies on Aging are the anchors to the Department, independent of the Department and are governed by their respective Boards. Most of their funding is from the Federal Older Americans Act, which is about 8 ½ percent of the Department's budget, with distribution of those funds based on a Funding Formula. It is important for the Boards to diversify as much of their revenue stream as possible. The relationship between the Department and the Area Agencies needs to be strong.

The Department's work on a Transition Document for the new Rauner Administration is a work in progress. The Department has been asked to develop two budget scenarios for the Fiscal Year 2016 budget; a maintenance budget, and one showing a 20 percent reduction. This is not an unusual request to prepare for both scenarios. The budget is predicated on the Income Tax continuing; however, if it is removed, it will cause a shortfall in revenue. The Department will be talking about cost efficiencies and maximizing the funds it receives.

The proposed 1115 Waiver discussion is very complicated and still in process.

In 2015, the Federal Older Americans Act will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. This is an opportunity to capture the imagination of the public in terms of what the Older Americans Act has meant to older Americans over the last 50 years and what it will mean in the next 50 years.

Council Efforts Regarding Establishment of a Foundation – Facilitator, The Alford Group:

Director and Chairman Hosteny and Second Vice Chair, Phyllis Mitzen, looked into details of starting a foundation to benefit Aging services. The original thinking that a foundation could perhaps benefit training and technology needs at the Department has evolved into developing a stream of funding focused on services for older adults in Illinois. Director asked Council

Members to think about how to facilitate the idea. He introduced Sharon Tiknis of The Alford Group to the Council.

Ms. Tiknis indicated she would provide a framework for discussion by Council Members on the possibility of the Council initiating the development of a foundation.

A foundation would be designed to ensure the quality of living for seniors in the coming years. The design of a foundation would need to generate dollars and a mechanism for distribution of those dollars to meet the needs, and the steps needed to achieve the goals. The Alford Group is 35 years old and is an organization that serves the non-profit community in all areas of fundraising.

A report is issued annually that calculates giving among all Americans, with information obtained primarily through Income Tax returns. In 2013, \$335.17 Billion was donated. Of that dollar amount, 72% was from individuals; 8% from bequests by individuals; 15% from foundations, including big foundations; and 5% from corporations. Foundations were particularly helpful in providing seed money.

Baby Boomers and those born earlier represent 70% of all giving. This group would understand issues related to aging.

Council Members would need to get the message out to the community, as people who understand the needs are more likely to make donations. Locating a lead donor is a good idea.

The focus of the Illinois Foundation on Aging:

1. **Incentivize** community partnerships to serve our State's older adults. The idea is to not focus on individual or agency support, but to encourage communities to come together in partnership to better serve older adults. The foundation would be a supporter of collaborative efforts to bring resources and thinking together in ways that would produce something new. Community colleges and nursing homes and Area Agencies could be a new community partnership and could also include other groups, such as counties.
2. **Empower** older adults to remain active and accountable in civic affairs in their communities, and encourage engagement in whatever product comes as a result of foundation support.
3. **Advance Person-Centered Programs and Policies.** It was noted that people do not want to move into a nursing home and there is a need to look at person-centered care and the choices available. Lee Moriarty distributed a copy of a manual from the Illinois Pioneer Coalition, which is a voluntary board, with the major theme of empowering the older adult by considering all choices for care. Nursing homes were created to meet the needs of the elderly at a particular time, and are still operating in the same manner.

Sonia Bhagwakar, the Department's General Counsel, has reviewed State Statutes in regard to the formation of a foundation. The Statute indicates that State Agencies have to get Legislative authority to create a foundation, and any funds could be subject to a sweep in the event of a

budget deficit. An independent foundation entity that is not connected to the State Agency can be created.

Sharon Tiknis noted that for the purpose of this discussion, a foundation would need to be a stand-alone entity. The Council would need to identify the framework that would generate enough funding for the foundation and consider whether there is a need to fund a foundation and whether the mission would be able to demonstrate a major impact and solve a gap in how organizations and services work together.

Discussion Points:

- A foundation requires an extraordinary amount of time and effort and it would be difficult for the Council to handle.
- The foundation is a great idea, but requires structure and lots of work in order to make it sustainable. There is a need to talk with other foundations to see how others are structured.
- The Council could become a clearinghouse for information about different organizations.
- The original concept by Director Holton was to fund specific items on behalf of the Department, and the Council might want to consider narrowing the scope of the foundation currently being discussed. Local agencies are already raising money for programs in their area.
- Need to decide if the efforts being discussed are different than what is already being handled by the Area Agencies on Aging through the Federal Older Americans Act. Area Agencies have their own foundations and are looking at soliciting funding locally. The Council would need to decide if this is a statewide foundation.
- The current funding in place through the Area Agencies is not sufficient for all things.
- Perhaps next steps should be to bring Area Agencies into the leadership and find out if any flexibility exists in the General Assembly.
- Joe Piasecki, from Senator Julie Morrison's Office, noted the Department is subject to General Assembly appropriations. The funding in the foundation designed to support the Department of Natural Resources was swept. On January 1, the Income Tax rate decreases, and establishment of a Department foundation would be seen as an expansion of State Government. If the Council chooses to establish a 5013c foundation, the Council's responsibility would be increased.
- A foundation would be a major responsibility. The Council would like to help the Department, but maybe this is not the vehicle, and more discussion is needed.
- The Council is in the process of exploring the foundation as a new vehicle for funding of some services.
- There is a need to know who would run the 5013c and how it would help the Department.
- Need to decide how the Council would find committees to help with the foundation.
- Director Holton had asked the Council to look into the formation of a foundation, and it is appropriate to look into the necessary process.

- Funds are tight everywhere. It would be good to help, but it would require a lot of time to do fundraising.
- Gaps do exist in services. Some Area Agencies are more active than others. In order to bring all of that together, will need to continue to delve into the issue of a foundation.
- Is there another way to support the goal of supporting the Department staff through technology and training. It was noted there would be a need to advocate for more dollars for the Department in those two areas.
- The empowering focus is a good idea.
- Council could advocate in the community on how to raise awareness.
- There is a need to get more older people involved in government.
- Sharon Tiknis noted the Council has defined the gaps and discussed the issues. She asked if there is a shared commitment to this project.
- The foundation is an idea whose time has come.
- Need to decide who exactly would create the foundation.
- This exercise is just a group of concerned citizens gathering information to give advice to the Director of the Department and decide on the next steps.
- There are winds of change and the foundation is an important discussion. Aging-friendly communities are being established.
- Need to explore the possibility of a foundation and whether or not it is a feasible idea, or come up with an alternative idea.
- Each Area Agency on Aging has the ability to establish regional coalitions.
- Council Members could support; however, some who are providers are already involved with foundations for their local services.
- Person-centered care is hard to enact, but is now the focus of the Federal CMS.

Possible Framework (Sharon Tiknis):

- Need to define the gaps in services and geographic needs.
- Verify framework already in place.
- Look at 5013c pathway and determine the key people involved.
- Clarify the role of the Council, Department, and relationship with other existing groups.
- Needs to be a shared commitment—maybe five people from the Council to work with the Chairman and Second Vice Chair, who are interested in being a part of a task force to plan this to the next level.

Aspirations and feelings about this venture (Sharon Tiknis and Council Members):

- Need a clear purpose.
- Optimistic.
- Apprehensive.
- Excited.
- Extraordinary.
- Worthwhile.
- Wonderful, but defining.

- Energized.
- Inspired.
- Cautious.
- Challenging.
- Hopeful.
- Interested.
- Bold.

The Chairman indicated the Council will continue this discussion in the new year.

50th Anniversary Celebration Update – Council Members:

Lee Moriarty updated the Council on the committee's planning for the 50th Anniversary of the Older Americans Act Celebration. The kick-off of the celebration will be held during a reception in honor of the 50th Anniversary Celebration, sponsored by Cigna Health Spring on Thursday evening, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Council Members were encouraged to be in attendance. Two posters have been prepared with appropriate logos and wording, and attendees at the reception will be asked to sign the posters in support of the Older Americans Act. It is hoped that attendees will take a picture of the posters and take back to their communities. There will be statewide celebrations at the local level throughout 2015, culminating at the 2015 Governor's Conference on Aging. Press releases and publicity ideas will be prepared. The celebration at the 2015 Governor's Conference will be more like a party with a variety of things happening throughout the conference. The committee will be meeting following the end of this Council meeting to talk about future plans.

The idea of the celebration in 2015 being an intergenerational and multicultural one was mentioned. It is hoped a website can be developed highlighting the many celebrations around the State. The logo will be sent out to different groups.

Council Members were asked to contact Lee Moriarty with their ideas for different celebrations.

Diane Adams-Alsberry thanked Mary Killough, the Department's Deputy Director, and Lisa Zurbier, the Council Liaison, for making this year's reception a reality on short notice.

Transition Issues:

Chairman Hosteny was recently contacted by a member of Governor-Elect Rauner's Transition Team. It is the Council's responsibility to advise the Governor on the appointment of the Director of the Illinois Department on Aging.

Eugene Verdu made a Motion that the Council send a letter to the Transition Team endorsing current Director, John Holton, to continue as Director of the Department. The Motion was seconded by J. Diane Adams-Alsberry.

Steve Wolf made a Motion that the Chairman write a draft letter of recommendation to the Transition Team endorsing Director Holton to continue as Director of the Department, and send to Council Members for review. Motion was seconded by Eugene Verdu.

Both Motions passed unanimously.

The final letter will be sent on Council letterhead, as soon as possible the week of December 15.

Individual Council Members can also send letters of recommendation for Director Holton. The Lieutenant Governor-Elect is the Chair of the Transition Committee.

It was noted that individual members of the Aging Network could send letters of recommendation to the Transition Team. This could be encouraged by individual Council Members, but not the Council itself. The Chair asked Lisa Zuurbier to share lists of Aging Network organizations with Council Members.

Council Member Updates:

Bernie Wong reported she and Phyllis Mitzen were a part of the committee that helped bring a group of individuals from China last year to look at services in Chicago. The group was very impressed. Planning is in process for a group from the United States to visit China, October 24-31, 2015, and they are entertaining applications. Individuals would need to pay their own way, but once in China, costs will be covered.

Anna Oestreich reported that in the last year, her organization received a grant from Met Life and were able to finalize a \$1.4 million transportation facility and a new senior center addition, which was dedicated to Senator Frank Watson.

Lee Moriarty noted that if Council Members want additional information about her publication, she will be happy to respond.

Mubarak Mirjat has been busy serving as the chairman of a youth conference.

Margaret Huyck reported the Hyde Park Village has opened and is designed to help people age in place.

Phyllis Mitzen is also involved in the Village movement locally at the grassroots level and in the State.

J. Diane Adams-Alsberry reported her group recently held a luncheon and gave out turkeys for Thanksgiving to those in need.

Steve Wolf noted it is an honor to serve on the Council.

Betty Martz will be retiring from St. Clair County for a second time at the end of the year.

Paulette Hamlin suggested using social media to share information.

Joe Piasecki (representing Senator Julie Morrison) noted he was happy to be in attendance at the Council meeting. The Senator asked him to thank everyone for their dedication and she is looking forward to continuing to advise the Department.

Sharon Tiknis (from The Alford Group) thanked the Council for the opportunity to make a presentation about foundations to the group.

Charlotte Kauffman (from Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health) reported that she is now the project director for the Money Follows the Person expansion project, which includes 15 mental health agencies outside Chicago. A grant has been received from The Retirement Research Foundation to help with education and support in rebalancing efforts.

A Motion was made by Bernie Wong that the meeting be adjourned.

Motion was seconded by Betty Martz.

Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

s/Steve Wolf

Steve Wolf, Secretary
Illinois Council on Aging